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101. The syringe of claim 97 wherein the back end portion of the barrel includes at least one slot.

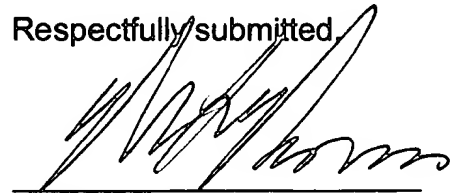
REMARKS

New claim 97 is principally directed to inside wall of the barrel increasing in diameter behind the flanges to form an enlarged open back end portion and is supported, for example, at page 13, lines 17-20; page 14, lines 4-6 and Figs. 1-3, 5-7 of the specification as originally filed. Claim 98 is supported, for example, at page 13, lines 17-20. Claim 99 is supported, for example, at page 34, lines 20-21. Claim 100 is supported, for example, at Figs. 1-3. Claim 101 is supported, for example, at page 30, lines 14-18. No claims already pending in the application are believed to recite a syringe with a retractable needle assembly in which the principal structural elements are a barrel comprising an enlarged, open back end portion behind the flanges and a slidably engaged plunger handle having an end cap that is received and lodged inside the open back end portion.

The newly added claims are believed to read on the species of FIGS. 1-3, previously elected for examination, and are also believed to read on the invention as disclosed in relation to FIGS. 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12.

Please charge any additional fee that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1781 of Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



Monty L. Ross
Registration No. 28,899

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LOCKE LIDDELL & SAPP LLP
2200 Ross Avenue, Ste. 2200
Dallas, TX 75201-6776
(214) 740-8519
(214) 740-8800 (fax)

MARKED-UP NEW CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

New claims:

--97. A syringe having a retractable needle assembly designed for one use, comprising:

a hollow outer body having an elongated barrel with longitudinally extending outside and inside walls, the longitudinally extending outside wall of the barrel having opposed laterally extending flanges, the longitudinally extending inside wall of the barrel increasing in diameter behind the flanges to form an enlarged open back end portion;

a plunger handle slidably insertable into the barrel and having a rear portion with an end cap, the end cap having a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of the open back end portion; wherein

upon retraction of the needle assembly the end cap is received and lodged in the open back end portion of the barrel, disposing the plunger handle within the elongated barrel and rendering the plunger handle and end cap inaccessible for grasping. --

--98. The syringe of claim 97 wherein the back end portion of the barrel does not resist entry of the end cap upon retraction.--

--99. The syringe of claim 97 wherein the lodging of the end cap in the opening of the back end portion of the barrel is not accompanied by locking of the plunger in the barrel.--

--100. The syringe of claim 97 wherein the opening at the back end portion of the barrel is configured as a stop which contacts the end cap after the end cap enters the opening.--

--101. The syringe of claim 97 wherein the back end portion of the barrel includes at least one slot.--